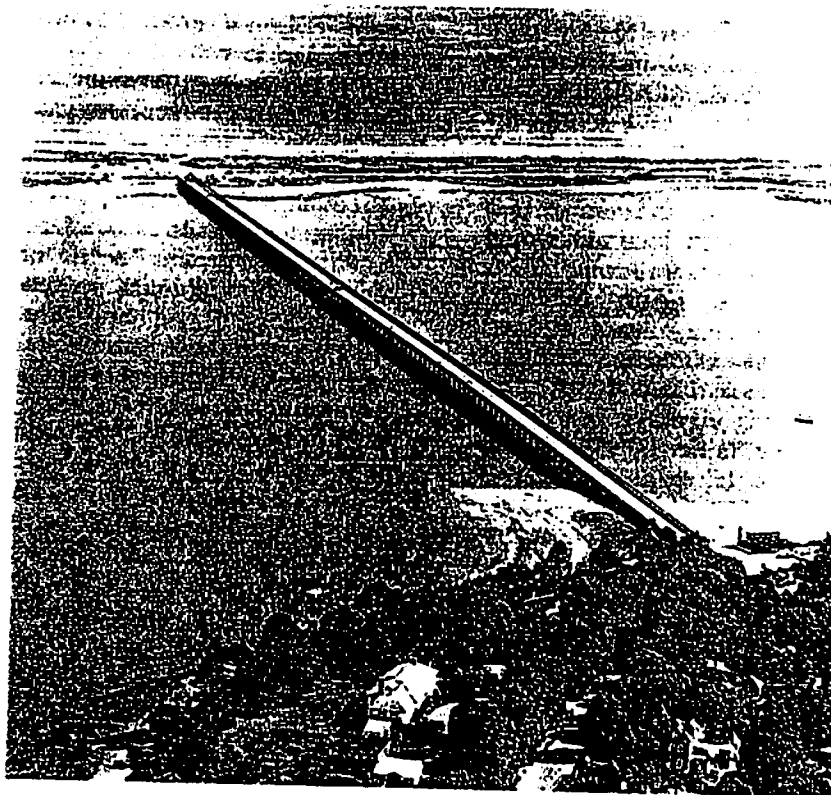


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Powder Point Bridge  
Souly Hone v.2 #2 Summer 1988  
**NEW LANDMARKS**



### POWDER POINT BRIDGE

Duxbury's Powder Point Bridge is the winner of the prestigious 1988 Engineering Excellence Award presented by the American Consulting Engineers Council of New England, Inc. (ACEC). This award recognizes "those engineering achievements demonstrating the highest degree of merit and ingenuity, and providing a major contribution to technical, economic and social advancement."

The new 2,200-foot long bridge replaces a structure built in 1892 to provide access by the town of Duxbury to its beach. Over the years, time, weather and fire took a severe toll on the original bridge and, several years ago, it was closed to traffic. After having completed a comprehensive study of several rehabilitation and replacement alternatives, Universal Engineering Corporation of Boston was chosen by the town as the firm to design and monitor the construction of a replacement for the previous structure.

By using imported hardwoods known for their density, strength, resistance to fire and

natural imperviousness to infestation and marine borers, Universal was able to recreate the natural character of the original bridge, while increasing its use and longevity.

The new bridge stands on hand-hewn square piles of *DICORYNIA PARAENIS* (Basralocus Angelique) from South America. The superstructure and pile bracing is constructed of *LOPHIRA ALATA* (Ekki, Bongossi, Azobe) from Africa.

The added strength of these tropical hardwood materials now allow fifteen tons, rather than four, to be carried by half the number of piles in the original bridge. In addition, the high natural density of these woods makes preservative chemical treatment unnecessary, eliminating harmful effects to the environment and decreasing future maintenance costs.

Built at a cost of over three million dollars, the new Powder Point Bridge, although not an exact replica, will preserve the history and tradition of the landmark it replaced for generations to come.